

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Lynn Doucette-Stamm and David Bush

Divisional of Application No.: 09/450,969

Filed: November 29, 1999

Title: Nucleic Acid and Amino Acid Sequences Relating to *Staphylococcus epidermidis* For Diagnostics and Therapeutics

Date: December 1, 2003

EXPRESS MAIL LABEL NO. EL 442001728 US

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This Preliminary Amendment is being filed concurrently herewith a divisional patent application. No new matter is being added.

Amendments to the Specification begin on Page 2.

The listing of claims begins on page 3.

Please amend the application as follows: